

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

July 08, 1981

POLAND: New Labor Troubles

The regime is confronted with its first potentially significant labor unrest in almost three months. [REDACTED]

Dockworkers in the Baltic ports are planning to stage a one-hour warning strike today to support demands for better work conditions, higher pay, and government acceptance of their union charter. Employees of the state airline plan a four-hour strike tomorrow to protest the government's rejection of their candidate for airline director. In Silesia, some coal miners reportedly are threatening to slow down production unless they receive more food. [REDACTED]

The dock and airline workers are threatening longer stoppages, possibly next week, if their grievances are not met. Solidarity leader Walesa has gone to Gdansk to try to help settle the dockworkers' dispute, but negotiations with the government apparently are deadlocked. [REDACTED]

The upsurge in unrest probably stems in part from the dismal economic situation. Food is in particularly short supply in Silesia. Last month, the government began shipping extra supplies to southern Poland in response to miners' complaints about the burdens of extra shift work. [REDACTED]

Some Solidarity leaders also may believe it necessary to make a show of union strength before the party congress to remind the delegates of the risks of adopting a more conservative course. If labor unrest persists, it would cast a shadow over a congress that already promises to be contentious. It could draw attention away from internal party issues and intensify debates between moderates and hardliners over how best to carry out reform policies. [REDACTED]

New Polish Primate

Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the successor to the late Cardinal Wyszynski, is a pragmatic bishop whose extensive legal training will be useful to the Church as Poland continues its politically tense search for a more democratic society. Both Pope John Paul II and Wyszynski probably

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agreed that the 52-year-old Glemp would be well suited for the moderating role that Wyszynski had perfected. According to one local Solidarity representative, Glemp is well liked by union members. [REDACTED]

Glemp will not quickly gain the personal status and authority of Wyszynski, but the Polish Church again has a leader who can speak out in times of trouble. Despite rumors that Wyszynski's powers might be divided, Glemp probably also will hold the highest administrative post of the Church--Chairman of the Council of Bishops. Nevertheless, he will have to move deftly to work out his relationships with the bishops who previously were senior to him. [REDACTED]

